



News Release

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DGS to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Updated Regulation for Capitol Square

~ Written public comments can be submitted through Oct. 15 ~

RICHMOND, Va. – The Department of General Services (DGS) today announced it will hold a public hearing to gather comments on its proposed updated regulation for the use of Capitol Square.

The proposed regulation would replace the current one that took effect in 1970, which contains outdated or irrelevant references and does not adequately equip the department or law enforcement to ensure the safety of participants or the grounds during events on Capitol Square. The proposed regulation establishes standards for the use of Capitol Square as well as the acceptance, processing, review, and disposition of permit applications for events on the historic grounds.

The public hearing will be held from 10 a.m. until noon on Oct. 12, 2021, at the DGS Office of Fleet Management Services facility located at 2400 West Leigh Street in Richmond.

Anyone who wishes to speak must register at the event; there is no pre-registration. Registration begins at 9 a.m., and the hearing officer will call speakers in the order in which they registered. All speakers are limited to two minutes.

Seating capacity is limited and will be available on a first-come basis. All individuals and bags are subject to search prior to entering the conference room. No signage is allowed.

Unvaccinated individuals are required to wear a face covering, and all participants are encouraged to do so.

Written public comments will be accepted through October 15, 2021, on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at this link:

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/comments.cfm?stageid=9237>.

The proposed regulation can be found on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at:

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/viewstage.cfm?stageid=9237&display=documents>.

The proposed regulation reflects many of the department's current practices, including rules for permitted events, time limits for events (one hour with 30 minutes before and after for setup and takedown), that events are limited to one at a time, and that permit requests are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. It also sets the Capitol Square hours of operation from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Changes include the following:

- Requires a permit for any event with 10 or more people (existing regulation requires a permit for an event with one or more individuals)
- Sets a deadline on when the department must respond to a permit request (existing regulation does not include a response deadline)
- Outlines when the department may deny or revoke a permit
- Establishes an appeals process for denied requests
- Sets that applications will be accepted up to 180 days before the permitted event (existing regulation does not include a submission deadline)
- Outlines times for permitted events (sunrise to sunset)

The deadline to submit a permit application in most instances would remain at six days before an event; however, the proposed regulation establishes a 45-day submission deadline for events expected to draw over 1,000 attendees due to additional planning and coordination requirements, and also outlines how to get a permit within the six-day window for spontaneous events.

About DGS: DGS provides laboratory, procurement, real estate, and engineering and architectural services for state agencies, as well as fleet vehicle management, graphic design, surplus property disposal, and mail services at the seat of government. The agency also manages the facilities and grounds at Capitol Square.

For more information about DGS, visit dgs.virginia.gov.

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